Research Note

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN
FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

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POLE PRODUCTION GAINS IN 1949 1/

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Transmission pole production in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region 2/ in 1949 showed a gain of 34 percent over 1948. Total output in 1949 was 599,312 poles; whereas in 1948 some 447,986 poles were reported. The upward trend in production started late in 1948 and continued well into 1949. Production in 1949, however, was 217,890 poles less than in 1947, the peak year of post-war output in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region.

The greatest production gain was in North Idaho where the output was up 47 percent. Montana production went up 33 percent, while in Northeast Washington production was about the same in 1949 as in 1948. Data for each of these subregion units are given in table 1. Species output increased as follows: Lodgepole pine and western redcedar 35 percent, western larch 33 percent, and Douglas-fir 6 percent (table 2). Distribution of production by length classes (table 3) and by A.S.A. size classes (table 4) showed no marked changes from the previous year.

Table 1. Number of poles produced in 1949

Species	Northern Rocky Mountain Region				Percent of total
	Montana	N. Idaho	N. E. Washington	Total	
	Number of poles				Percent
Lodgepole pine	172,108	1,651	12,503	186,262	31.1
Western redcedar	15,408	241,639	29,069	286,116	47.7
Western larch	32,546	55,639	33,029	121,214	20.2
Douglas-fir	1,753	1,879	2,088	5,720	1.0
Total	221,815	300,808	76,689	599,312	-
Percent	37.0	50.2	12.8	100.0	100.0

1/ The Rocky Mountain Pole and Treating Association sponsored the survey of pole production for 1949. All of the pole producing companies reported their production. The cooperation of these companies in supplying the data is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

2/ The Northern Rocky Mountain Region includes Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties in Northeast Washington.

Table 2. Comparison of pole production by species - 1948 and 1949

Species	1948	1949	Percent change
	Number of pieces		Percent
Lodgepole pine	138,099	186,262	+ 34.9
Western redcedar	212,785	286,116	+ 34.5
Western larch	90,879	121,214	+ 33.4
Douglas-fir	5,419	5,720	+ 5.6
Miscellaneous	804	-	-100.0
Total	447,986	599,312	+ 33.8

Table 3. Distribution of production by length classes

Species	Length classes					
	25' & under	30'	35'	40'	45' & over	All
	Percent of total					
Lodgepole pine	3	32	48	13	4	100
Western redcedar	13	18	27	17	25	100
Western larch	2	12	43	24	19	100
Douglas-fir	-	28	39	16	17	100
All species 1949	8	21	35	17	19	100
All species 1948	11	22	35	14	18	100

Dash indicates less than 1 percent.

Table 4. Distribution of production by A.S.A. classes

Species	A.S.A. classes										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	All
	Percent of total										
Lodgepole pine	-	-	1	3	10	35	46	4	1	-	100
Western redcedar	4	7	11	16	22	16	13	6	4	1	100
Western larch	1	3	10	20	27	23	16	-	-	-	100
Douglas-fir	1	6	12	19	18	22	22	-	-	0	100
All species 1949	2	5	9	14	20	21	21	4	3	1	100
All species 1948	3	5	8	14	18	23	21	5	2	1	100

Dash indicates less than 1 percent.

Note: Data similar to those contained in tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 are available for 1946, 1947, and 1948.